(c) No, Sir. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) encourages setting up of all industries except for a small negative list.

Khadi and Village Industries in Andhra Pradesh

2435. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of weavers and other workers depending on Khadi and Village Industries in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the Khadi industry is in a financial wrap; and

(c) if so, the steps taken and proposed to protect and popularise Khadi in the country particularly in Andhra Prasesh to protect the weavers dependent on Khadi Industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) about 34,000 workers are engaged in Khadi programme including polyvastra and 3.26 lakhs workers (approx.) are engaged in village industries in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Specific Programme to Promote Rural Industries

†2436. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to formulate a specific programme to promote rural industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.